

**EVENING MEETING  
BOARD WORK SESSION  
March 18, 1998  
MINUTES**

The Board met at 6:00 p.m. at The Edison Walthall Hotel, 225 East Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on February 19, 1998. The following members were present: Yvonne Brown, Sara Fox, Billy Hewes, Joanna Heidel, Henry "Bubba" Hudspeth, John Junkin, Patricia Puckett, William Seal, and George Walker. Hazel Terry was the only board member absent. Others present included State Board for Community and Junior Colleges (SBCJC) staff Randall Bradberry, Becky Cade, Larry Day, Deborah Gilbert, Olon E. Ray, Wayne Stonecypher, Frankie Walton-White, and Evelyn Webb.

Mr. Walker asked Ms. Yvonne Brown to bless the meal. Upon completion of the meal, Mr. Walker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The first item on the agenda was for the Committee-of-the-Whole to take up finance issues. (See Attached Agenda.) Mr. Seal, with assistance from SBCJC staff person, Deborah Gilbert, presented several financial items and called for discussion. The items covered included the following:

- 1) A motion was made by Billy Seal, seconded by Bubba Hudspeth, to refer the General Fund 2298 Disbursements for April, May, and June 1998, to the full board for official approval on 3/19/98.
- 2) Following a motion by John Junkin, seconded by Patricia Puckett, the board approved referral of the disbursement of \$2,104,009.06 Education Enhancement Funds to the board for official approval on 3/19/98.
- 3) Approval to refer the purchase of \$35,054.64 of Resource Center Library Materials to the 3/19/98 board meeting for official action was provided following a motion by Billy Seal and a second by John Junkin.
- 4) Financial Statements for Funds 2291, 3291, and 4300 as of March 12, 1998 were presented for information.
- 5) In other business, on a motion by Billy Seal, seconded by John Junkin, the Board approved referral of the renewal of a Fidelity Bond through Ross & Yerger, Travelers Casualty and Surety Company to the 3/19/98 board meeting for official action. The annual installment totals \$1,082 per year and is renewable for three years. Coverage is based on \$250,000 per individual per occurrence.

Mr. Walker then called on Joanna Heidel as the Board's program liaison to review program agenda items. Joanna, with assistance from Wayne Stonecypher, reviewed staff recommendations to place four vocational technical programs on probation. (Refer to Exhibit A.) On a motion by Joanna, with a second by Billy Seal, the Board approved the recommendation.

On a motion by Joanna that was seconded by John Junkin, the Board agreed to refer staff recommendations to remove three vocational technical programs from probationary status to the official meeting on 3/19/98. (Refer to Exhibit B.) Exhibit C was provided for information documenting enrollment in the programs when they were placed on probation.

Mr. Walker then called on Dr. Olon Ray to provide an overview of the Board's role, responsibilities, and mission. Dr. Ray began this overview by offering members his philosophy for conducting business as follows:

First, do what is right. Once that is done, consider alternatives selecting the one that is best. Always consider, what is to be gained or lost by each decision.

Dr. Ray continued by stating that the law says that the SBCJC is a "coordinating board". The issue lies in what it means to be a coordinating board. A major role for the board is to establish standards to effect quality programs worthy of state fund expenditures. The philosophy here has been to effect and continue to improve programs, but not to control what goes on at the local level. Therefore, the Board adopted the Southern Association of Colleges' standards. Additionally, to help ensure financial solvency the board established its authority to request reports to verify colleges' fiscal condition. Additional operational guidelines for distance learning and criteria for counting student enrollment are also a part of the adopted standards.

He further stated that it was more desirable to work in a cooperative manner when possible, reserving disagreements for dealing with significant issues. Also in his opinion, the Board would be ill advised to take a position which is not defensible and not statutorily sanctioned.

The Board is also responsible for making determinations for vocational technical programing offered at the colleges. Workforce, GED, adult education, and proprietary schools are operational programs that the Board is responsible for maintaining. A major role in this area is to avoid waste and duplication.

Frankie Walton-White provided a brief history of the board since its establishment and mentioned that the standards developed to date are extremely specific, not vague, according to specific grant of authority given the Board. She also mentioned that the SBCJC has policy positions on Foundations and on encouraging diversity in hiring. Following the staff's overview, board members discussed concerns and issues related to the report. Mr. Walker then asked each board individually if they had any additional questions or concerns related to this issue and if they were satisfied with information received. No additional questions or concerns related to this issue were raised.

In other business, Dr. Ray mentioned that the Peer Committee would probably be requesting an investigation on out-of-country students on scholarship. John Junkin also brought up the issue of whose job it was to ensure that the buildings on the college campuses were insured. While generally it is perceived that this task is a role of the local boards, staff were asked to gather information pertaining to coverage to see if a problem exists statewide.

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There being no more business, on a motion by Billy Seal, with a second by John Junkin the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.